A true & exact Relation of the ſeveral paſſages at the Siege of MANCHESTER.

Between the Lo: STRANGE his Forces, and the Towne.

VVherein is evidently ſeene the wonderfull mercy of God in their deliverance.

Written by one that was an eie-witneſſe, and an Actor in moſt of that ſervice.

Alſo a Proteſtation of Maſter *Hotham*, and divers other Knights and Gentlemen, againſt the 14. Articles of Pacification, and Neutrality.

LONDON,
Printed for *Edward Blackmore*, at the Angel in *Pauls* Churchyard. *Octob.* 12. 1642.

MANCHESTER.

An exact relation of the ſeverall paſſages at the ſiege of MANCHESTER.

SAterday the 25. of September, 1642. the Lord *Strange* having the fortnight paſt drawn to *Warrington* great Forces of Horſe and Foot, was feared to have intended ſomthing againſt our town, yet could not any certainty (by any ſure ground of appearance) be gathered, yet upon that night about ten of the clock, a letter came from *Warrington* aforeſaid; intimating that the Lo: *Strange* was comming with great power to diſarme us, this was ſeconded, and that foure great pieces upon cariages were on the way, & his purpoſe was to aſſault the Towne very early in the morning. This wrought in us great feare and a generall aſtoniſhment, there being in our towne ſome few gentlemen, Maſter *Hellaude*, Maſter *Edgerton*, Maſter *Dunkefield*, Maſter *Booth*, Maſter *Hide*, Maſter *Roſworme* a German, whom God hath ſent into our Towne a little before, who the night before had finiſhed the mud-walls and chains, that were done by his directions at the ſeverall paſſages of our town: Alſo Captain *Bradſhaw*. Theſe being preſent in Town, conſulted about an houre with the chiefe of the Towne, and then it was concluded that the drum ſhould beat up, the bells ring croſſe to

give the Countrey notice, and every man within to ſtand to his Arms, & before the morning light, notice was given that they were very nigh the towne, at which being by ſcouts diſcovered, every paſſage was as well manned as that preſent time would admit, which by reaſon of ſome Country Forces that were come unto us, our Neighbours and towne all joyneing, kept them of a ſuddaine Aſault, which cauſed them to take up ſome houſes and paſſages very neare the town at three principall paſſages, South, North, and Weſt, to hinder us of the leaſt both of men and proviſion, the Lord *Strange* his Forces (as is certainly Reported) was about two thouſand foot, ſome ſay, four, five, or ſix thouſand, are betwixt five and ſix hundred horſe, ſix great peeces of ordnance, they being ſetled, ſent word to Require the Armes of our towne, and to billet an hundred men, which being denyed them, two Gentlemen from our towne were ſent to know the Reaſon of my Lords comming in that manner againſt the Kings Subjects, one of them was kept two or three howers, but at length got Releaſt.

Sunday.

THis day (being the Lords day) paſſed away with great fears and troubles as the like was never ſeene in *Mancheſter*, yet it pleaſed God to ſend us ſome ayd from ſeverall Adjacent parts, ſo that before the next day at noone, there was about one thouſand men in compleat Armes within our town, moſt of them muſketiers.

Munday

Munday.

MUnday they ſtrengthened the paſſages as well as the Fort could do; Captain *Bradſhaw* the Denſe gate end, Captain *Ratcliffe* the market ſtead, Cap: *Booth* the Mill gate, Captaine *Roſworme* the Barge againſt Sawford way, Liſtermain, Barwick, the Hunts bancke, and a company of reſolute Souldiers the Sned hill without any commander, towards the Afternoone it was obſerved that divers Horſemen of the Lord *Straunges* went out to aſſault the towne Eaſtward, or to have ſtopped the way, which being taken notice of, Captaine *Bradſhaw* with about 30. Musketiers iſſued forth, Shot Sharply at them and made them retire backe with haſt towards their places of Randevouze.

Notwithſtanding there were then laid betwixt our men and that place 40. or 50. Musketiers that playd very vehemently upon them, and having the advantage alſo of a Ditch-bancke, our men fearing that they ſhould be compaſt in with them, Retreated without any loſſe or hurt to the Denſe-gate ende; the place that was firſt aſſaulted.

And preſently after that, divers of our enemies ſtoale downe to the ende of a great Barne that was full of Corne and Haye, and ſet it on Fire with ſome other buildings that was betwixt them and the new made Mudd-wall, the ſame being about an Hundred and Fifty yards diſtant, they gathered togeather (the Barne begining to burne) and thought to take the advantage of the ſmoake to cover them, and by a ſuddaine ſhot to have driven our men from their Fort, which aſſaying to doe, were anſwered ſo well by our ſhot, that they were beaten backe, and a cheife Commander of their Horſe ſlaine, with divers others of their Souldiers. This fight continued for the ſpace of three quarters of an houre in a vehement maner, our enemy having another company of foote to have ſeconded the firſt, and behind them a great force of Horſe to have come on, but their welcome (by the grace of God) was ſo hott that they durſt not aproach nearer but re-

tired backe, in this fight was not one of our men touched, ſave that an unskilfull man (whoſe Musket was ready to be diſcharged) let it fly at unwares and ſtrooke one of his fellows through the necke that he died: hims an that was thus ſlaine, was Servant to Maſter *Aſhton* of *Middleton*.

Now when the flame of tinered barne appeared (which might have diſcouraged all ourearts, had not the Lord ſupported us) came down from Sawford to the foot of the bridg, great ſtore of horſe and foot of the Lord *Strange* with a ſudden ſhout, and Aſſayd to enter, but were ſo Anſwered with our ready ſhot, that they durſt not ventur on it again, At which fight tis ſayd ſome Commanders were cut off, and many Common Souldyers, for ſome lay dead in the ſtreet (that they durſt not come near all the next day for feare of our ſhot): the night begining to aproach great care was uſed for our ſafety and with great feare the night paſſed on, About twelve of the Clock that night came (at the bottom of the parſonage) tis thought an hundred or an hundred and fifty men down by the water ſide, Intending to have fired the towne by ſome ſtacke of faggets that lay cloſe behinde the houſes, but four men ſtanding Sentinell at that back paſſage, with the help of 8. men more that came in unto them, drove and forced them back, how the Lord preſerved theſe twelve men tis wonderful, for as the enemy ſhot fiercely at them before, ſo their own friends behind them, (not knowing who they were) ſhot as fiercely at them, yet God bee prayſed none of them were touched, the night paſſed on with great fear.

Tewſday.

THe next morning were planted ſome Ordnance, which firſt played upon the Deans gate end, the firſt ſhot ſtruck off 2. ridge tiles of a barn, and the bullet fell down among our Soldiers, the fight whereof did ſome what terrifie them, but their Captain encouraged them ſo as by little and little they were drawn paſt fear: they ſhot ſeverall times again but did no hurt at all, then they planted two great peeces at Sawford, to batter downe about that

that passage that came forth over the bridge, and shot twice, then my Lord *Strange* sent a Trumpeter to require passage through our Towne with his Forces, but that was refused, then played foure great pieces with great violence, the bullets shooting through and through divers houses so that the bullets came tumbling amongst us like balls but did no harme to any, only one boy (that was a wicked Childe, having overrun his parents) was with Cannon shot mortally wounded, by gazing in the face of the enemy, at a work made by the mudwall, who within a few houres died, then presently followed out a troop of their horse to stop part of the passage East-ward, but some of our musquetiers issuing forth at the market-steed-lane, drove them back, in which fight one of our bill men only was shot into his shoulder, the shooting continued with such vehemencie, then it is scarce credible to beleeve so little hurt should be done, our towne lying so open and naked on all sides, in the Afternoone seven of our men went over the bridge to cease upon a house that commanded the bridge, but were presently discovered, this night passed away with great feare and trouble.

Wednesday.

On Wednesday morning our seven men were surprised in the said house, and taken, and divers of our enemies were placed in their roomes; then they fell to shooting againe, which wee likewise answered, and Fortifications were soone made, that no great hurt was done to us. In the afternoone a man was shot into the leg, as he was crossing downe to goe to his guard, and another of our Bel-men was by peeping forth of his Rank shot through the head with a bullet and dyed. This night continued with such shooting betwixt us and *Salford*, as the like hath not been heard. One of our men, his musket breaking (in the Church-yard) struck off his hand. The same evening they made an assault on the Sned-hill, but were beaten back. The Troopers went out into the Country this day to rob and spoile about two miles from our towne, where two or three Musquetiers

tiers and five or six Bill-men chased them and routed them, and tooke foure Horse, and slew one, and five men that evening, besides many other prisoners were taken and brought into our towne, with some Armes. About seven of the clock in the evening, notice was given that they had a designe to fire our Towne, but store of raine fell that evening, which proved much to our advantage; for the waters were raised, and they could not so readily passe over the rivers; yea some one cryed within the compasse of the Watch, Fire, Fire, which gave the Alarum, and ran quickly through the towne, which put us in great feare, but proved nothing. Warning was given to all men that they should watch their own houses both within and without. About eleven of the Clock at night, the enemy made an Assault at the east-side of the towne, and came upon the Brick croft with a great shout and a suddain discharge, where there lay 8 of our men in the brick kill, who had Fortified themselves there, and Answered the other with as sudden a shott as they could, They continewed shooting the space of an howre, and then the Cavaliers began to Retreate. In this fight one of the poore men in the brick kill shot of two of his little fingers of one hand, and his hand also bruised by the bursting of his peece.

This night was very greevous to our men, they being almost quite spent with watching, and toyling, and running to and fro that beyond the ordinary course of Nature they held out: But Night it pleased God to send us about twelve of the Clock about 80 musketiers and pikes, eleven whereof were slain as they came to the towne, by seven of the enemies who lay secretly in the way as they should passe and shot them suddenly, which was a great greef to their fellowes, these when they came in joyned themselves to Captain Bradshaw their being his neighbours, which strengthned him very much, hee having indured a sharp, long, and bitter time of it. A great strength lying against that passage to enter there that night, before it was morning, were brought two great peeces and placed at the head of *Salford*, to come down to the foote of the bridge to make open way by driving down our works and our men from them.

But

But on the Wednesday morning, it being espied, care was taken how to prevent that danger. Shooting continued still very vehemently till towards the afternoone; then his Lordship sent for a Treatie, requiring a thousand Armes: we were then in a great straight, having powder and shot, but no match; neither had any way to get any; time was required till seven the next morning; whereupon the Lord *Strange* engaged his honour, that nothing should be done in that time; in which time his Souldiers were about the worke they came for, that was to pillage and play the theeves in the Countrey all thereabouts: in this little time of cessation, there was some man in our Towne that had seene the making of Match, and had thereby gained some little insight in the making thereof, he fell to worke, and gave direction about the making thereof, and performed it well, and got supply of Match; and our Souldiers being a little refreshed by rest and sleepe, did mightily incourage one another to stand to it, and would admit of no Parley; the Gentlemen being inclinable to condescend, but the Souldiers expressing a great unwillingnesse, by a generall shout of Captaine *Bradshawes* Company, declared that they would part with their Armes and lives together. Now his Lordships Souldiers began to start aside, for they would not come neare but gave backe; for by reason of cold, and wet, hunger and thirst, and labour, want of sleepe, and a bitter welcome that we gave them, their hearts were discouraged mightily, in so much, that unarmed men of ours tooke courage and brought in both prisoners and Armes of theirs, so as scarcely can be beleeved. Now the time of Treatie was almost spent, and it was espied (by some of my Lords men) that some man of ours at the back side of a house, stood where was a ditch and small bancke cast up, to play upon *Salford*, they tooke exceptions against that which was done partly before that time, as also for taking downe a wooll pack, and laying it as it was the night before, a Souldier turning it downe to rest himselfe upon it; as also that a Countryman newly come into the Towne, and knowing nothing of the Treatie, shot off his Musket; all which as they said, was against the Law of Armes, which being excused, his Lordship answered, that he was informed, that during the time of the Treatie, his Souldiers had not made one shot, not taking

notice of the two men they kild as comming to the Towne, nor of the pillaging and plundering the Country, nor any of those Acts of injustice and violence, and therefore it was resolved, that wee would treate no more with him, neither would give him any Armes.

Thursday.

Then began they freshly to their worke againe on the thursday morning about ten of the clocke, and immediately was discharged two great Pieces of Ordnance against the new banicke that was rayſed along the water-ſide to command the Streete that leads up to the Chappell, they being discharged ſtrooke through and through a houſe of one that much favoured my Lord, but miſt the worke. From whence we playde ſo hotly, that the Canno-neete having againe chargde his Cannon, durſt not ſtay to discharge it, but ſo they ſtood all that night, and all the next day, and part of the next night, and they durſt not come neare unto them, yea they were got away the ſecond night, by what device I cannot tell. His Lordſhip ſent for a Parley againe, but the Souldiers would admit of none. We paſſe here through great difficulties, Maſter *Butterworth*, a prime man, is gone out for ayde towards *London* we heare, Maſter *Holland* the chiefe; upon good reaſon, thought fit to condeſcend, had drawne Maſter *Booth* and Maſter *Edgerton* with him: the Souldiers alſo that were ill affected, began to murmure and complaine, making this an excuſe, that the Countrey was ſpoyled, and they to ſave the Towne hazarded their owne eſtates, ſo that we were even at a ſtand, which being taken notice of, the well affected Souldiers incouraged by Maſter *Hyde* (the meaneſt of the Lievtenants) Captaine *Bradſhaw*, and Captaine *Reſworme*, ſpoke openly, that if all the Gentlemen deſerted the cauſe, yet would they cleave unto it, and depend and reſt upon the promiſe and engagement of the Parliament, for the making good any loſſe or dammage that ſhould befall them.

Great and terrible words are given out againſt the Rogues of *Manchester* (as they pleaſe to terme us) calling us bloody minded Roundheads: Lyes publiſhed by them, that Mr. *Johnſon*

ſon one of our fellowes, was taken, hanged, and quartered, that Maſter *Bowker* our Conſtable was ſlaine, that our Towne was given up, and that the Queene had ſent great battering Pieces. Theſe and the like Reports went very farre into the Countrey, which hindered us of helpe, diſcouraged us within, ſo that had not the Almightie God (whom they ſcoffed againſt in their reproachfull way) ſaying to this effect, we ſhall ſee where their Almightie Gods helpe is: I ſay, had not our Lord God been our preſent helpe, certainly in that very extremitie wee had periſhed. For encouragement reſted onely in the breaſts of a company of poore deſpiſed Chriſtians, who with our Towne, our poore *Manchester*, ingaged themſelves againſt the great mightie ones of our Countie; For, for ought I can learne, there was not one Gentleman of Eminency, Knight or Lord, throughout our Shire, nor any eminent man of note, but either in perſon or beſt aſſiſtance he was againſt us. Great boaſts were made abroad, and our Towne condemned for proud and bloudy people, becauſe wee would not give up; and generall notice was given (by my Lords friends) to all thoſe whom they call well affected people, with all innocent women and children, as they did tender their lives, to forgoe and leave the Towne; yea, and before this time, many of the chiefe of our Towne, had left and forſaken us; and our owne neighbour Towne *Salford* was up againſt us, keeping us in play with their continuall ſhot, ſo as the theeves had more libertie to rob, yea, hope of helpe now fayling, and no avde appearing, hope of proviſion beginning to ſlacke, the villaines having ſpoylde all about them, what they could not eate and carry away, either for horſe or man, moſt ſhamefully they caſt abroad and ſpoyld it. It is confidently ſpoken, they have done ten thouſand pound of hurt. Alſo report came, that Maſter *Leigh* of *Adlington*, with foure hundred men, were at *Stopport*, ready to aſſiſt the Earle of *Darbie*. Maſter *Ardene* of *Huden* went out Eaſtward to cleare a paſſage, and had one of his men ſhot and dyed; more priſoners were this day brought into our Towne; The Cannon ſtill play through and upon divers houſes, and hurt none: this night paſſed on with great and generall feare, not knowing how wee ſhould ſubſiſt.

Fryday.

Fryday morning the great Pieces were drawne out of *Salford*, the well affected peoples houses there plundred, robbed, and spoyled, what they could not carry away, they mangled and pild in pieces; the former feares removed by Souldiers that were sencible Christians, they did vayle themselves with valour, and gave out words, that if the head Gentlemen did still persist in destroying them, they would commit them, and thereupon Listed themselves to every place and Captaine apart. The Earle of *Darbie* sent againe for a Parley, requiring to have the Trained and Freehold Bands with him made out two hundred, part whereof were with him alreadie, and that he required them to defend the Kings person, the Lawes and Liberties of the Subjects. But answer was made, that they were bound by the Lawes of the Kingdome to keepe their Armes to defend themselves against Atheists and Papists, which they were sure was Law, and that he should not have one inch of match but against their wills. This day it was knowne that Captaine *Standish* was slaine by peeping out of a doore in *Salford*, which was a great griefe to the Earle of *Darbie*. The same time was three or foure drowned neare our Towne, one of them (as it is reported) had three Rings on his fingers, of an hundred and twentie pound value; three of our enemies men were buryed at *Dusbery*, some foure miles from our Towne.

The Poste came in this night and brought some good news, which did incourage us a little, who were till then almost out of courage; and also reported that Mr. *Leigh* his men would not follow him out of *Cheshire* into *Lancashire*: here was two very remarkable things that hapned.

One *Bloomely* of Ardwick was cocking his Match to have shot and killed an honest man that came to assist the Town, the said *Bloomely* (wresting the Scriptures) that obedience (as if every obedience were lawfull) was better than sacrifice, the said *Bloomely* was this night killed by them that he so much defended, going with his wife to milking, was by the Cavaliers shot into the belly; And though upon his knees he begged that they

would

would save his life, yet could not obtain it. Also a man of a bitter spirit, one *Bradshaw*, fleeing out of our Town to our enemies, for speaking some unadvised words, was slain and so requited. Another man, a Constable of *Blakley*, would not admit of a Watch, till his house was plundred, and the worth of thirtie pound taken from him, and then he was pleased to alter his opinion. And concerning the Barn that was burnt with Haye and Corn by our Town side, it was worth an hundred and fiftie pound at least, and he that owed it was noted to be a man that did (as much as in him lay) comply with the Earle of *Darby*: and was so requited by his Cavaliers. Severall other remarkable passages might be collected, as this afternoone the plunderers coming to an honest mans house intending to slay him, got in, and cockt his pistoll or peterrell, ready to discharge at the mans breast, but his fellow hitting him on the elbowe as if he had had something to have said to him, turned therewith the musse of his Pistol upon one of his own Company and killed him, whereby the poore man had time to make an escape with his life. Now the last and greatest project was by fire-balls, which as is credibly spoken, twenty pound was spent in the making of them, which were accordingly shot and cast at our Town, but, God be praised, could take no effect, the Lord had respect to his own cause, and to his poore peoples prayers and teares; for otherwise certainly they had spoyled us, for no meanes for our overthrow was left unattempted.

Saterday.

This night past, with the like shooting as before, the next day being Saterday, a parley was moved for exchange of prisoners, which was assented unto, we had about fourescore of theirs taken: and that they might not want a compleat number, they had taken divers poore men that were about their severall businesses in the fields.

And had used our men which they had taken very inhumanely, and had threatned to take their lives, yet God preserved them. Then his Lordship raised his siege, and went back with his baggage; for the Lord had caused them to return with losse

and disgrace. Those that were slain by us, and those that ranne away from him were very many, and is not yet known.

Sunday.

The Lords day following, our men were upon their march, and many of them issued out and took much Armes that they had left behind them in divers places.

The report of their coming on was very terrible to my Lords Companies as tis said.

Munday.

Munday being come, our men being wearied out, went home: those of the Villages neare hand, promised us to be ready againe at a very short warning. The next morning a sudden report was that our Town was again assaulted, which was very terrible to us we being naked; notice was given, and divers came presently to our help, but it proved no such matter. It is now said that the Earle of *Derby*, with Earle *Rivers*, are at *Warmestree*, and at *Wiggen*, and *Warrington*, and in *Cheshire*, and are there raising Forces to come against us againe, our good God stand for us, we have no other hope nor help but from him; the cause concerns the whole County, and if the Lord give us over, none can then expect to stand, all hanging (for the most part) the other way. We expect aid of horse daily from *London*, with some great Peeces, which if the Lord send them us, we shall be enabled more powerfully to resist. In the meane time with prayers and teares we intreat the help of Gods people by their prayers for this poore Town of *Manchester*.

Beleeve my Reports, for I am confident that I spare to speake out, because I would be within the bounds of modestie and truth. My words are as the words of one risen from the grave, and sure you will heare him, they are my own observations, and what I know in great part to be true, being an eye witnesse: our troubles are so great, and fears so many, that we can scarcely tell what we do. Passe by the manner of my writing, for I cannot have time to peruse what I have writ: and

though

though this and more be fresh in my remembrance, yet the time and circumstance being different, I may omit somthing in the order. I desire that this our deliverance may be had in perpetuall remembrance, that the generations to come may heare and know what the Lord God hath done for poore sinfull *Manchester*. We daily looke for assistance from *London*, but our onely trust and safe dependance is in God: The Lord shield his poore people from the rage of the oppressors, and give us faith still to depend and pray to God with faithfull hearts, that our King may comply his heart to and with the faithfull of the Land. I shall ore-run my self, if any word or thing be wrong written, omitted, or left forth, let me intreat you to gather the sence of it by what is written before or after. If I have committed any fault in writing, for I have not time to read it over. I pray you pray for us all, and the Lord be with you all, and keep us all stedfast to the day of his appearance. And so I rest your loving Friend.

Manchester, the 8. *Octob.* 1642.

Although there is nothing more desireable to us whether we look upon our own particulars, or the present distractions and dangers of our Countrey, then that all our conclusions may conduce to a quiet and peaceable settlement, for the effecting whereof we are not at all insensible how necessary it is for us to hold concurrance with those Gentlemen with whom in all our consultations hitherto we have communicated to the same end: yet inasmuch as those Articles hereunto annexed being as we conceive, totally against the priviledges of Parliament, and the Protestation we have already taken, and no way at all tending to the peace, but rather to the exposing of us to more insuing dangers, being that it is a fundamentall liberty of Parliament, to send for Delinquents in such a way as they shall see needfull; and we conceive that the eight Article doth directly and plainly oppose it, being that now the Delinquents are so strong that they cannot be sent for in an ordinary way of proceeding: we therefore hold our selves necessarily obliged as well in discharge of our selves, as duty to our Countrey, utterly to disavow the said Articles.

Articles. To which end we have published this our Declaration, to which we have subscribed our names this [illegible] of October 1642.

John Hotham.	*Jeffery Calle.*
Matthew Boynton.	*William Darby.*
Henry Fowles.	*John [illegible]*
Thomas Remington.	*Tho. Norcliffe.*
Francis Boynton.	*Francis Lassels.*
John Anlaby.	*John Lister.*
Arthur Backwith.	*John Dent.*
Phell. Saltmerse.	*Henry Wickermer.*

And foure more.

FINIS.

16395